Marcus
JW, HR

6/26/72

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. Attn Mr. Martin

Dear Senator Kennedy,

Despite the great length of my letter of the 23rd., it was written in haste and in the little time I have had to think of it since then, there is what I think is a major point of the many I did not address that I think I should. There aremx many other things I would prefer to do with this timex, as is probably the preference of your staff, too, but I think I owe it to you and to history. And your family.

The ostensible and the specified purpose of the so-called letter agreement or contract is to prevent sensational or undignified use of the materials listed in it. This was, in fact, the reason given me by the Archives for refusing me even a copy of the contract itself. In fact, the interpretations of the contract have never been by counsel for the estate, as my Archives and Jutsice Department correspondence leaves without possibility of doubt. Its sole use was to shelter official wrondoing and falsification and as I now know, even worse. I can even give you copies of letters from Mr. Marshall to me specifying that he leaves all of this to the government.

Now the totally disqualified, extremist-thinking sycophant Dr. Lattimer was given first and exclusive access to this material despite its prohibition by that contract. His work, which would demean a high-school student of intelligence not above average, can't possibly be Mr. Marshall's reason if, in fact, it is Mr. Marshall who made the selection. Dr. Lattimer's immediate and on the face of them incredible comments have been given rather widespread attention, and all in the name of and with the imprint of the Kennedy family and the estate. This really means you, personally. So, on the one hand, in your name there has been this considerable, international attention to a totally false representation of what this sequestered evidence says.

Soon there is to be at least one and as I understand it probably two radically different versions to be made public. Despite Mr. Marshall's insistence and Dr. Wecht's promise that nothing be said to embarrass the government, it is not possible for any honest and qualified expert to see this material without doing exactly, completely, what Mr. Marshall says he may not. The government lied, Dr. Lattimer did worse than lie, and if anyone pays any attention to what Dr. Wecht and perhaps Dr. Nichols says, no matter how they prhrase it, they will be saying that all the others lied. About the most basic evidence of the murder of the President, evidence suppressed in <u>your</u> name.

It is now inevitable that you and your family will be blamed for the suppression, for all the lies about your brother's murder, and for what can't help but be both undignified and sensational, the irreconcilable conflicts between what the experts permitted in your name to see this material will say about it. And if you doubt my comment on your giving Dr, Lattimer an exclusive copyright, these few words from his claim to it:"This may not be reproduced,quoted, or paraphrased in whole or in substantial part without the written permission..." I have never seen so restrictive an assertion. It means that only what this liar and incompetent says in your name can be said and any other version merely makes it and your permission worse. With regrets, Harold Weisberg